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## CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

**24-HOUR REPORT****30 JANUARY 2020**

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**(U) CALIFORNIA****(U) Mendota – MS-13 Gang Members Convicted**

(U) Claudia Lizaola and Brenda Morales, two Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) gang members, have been convicted in connection with a high-profile law enforcement probe that made headlines a year-and-a-half ago for targeting street violence in Fresno County. According to federal court documents, Lizaola conspired to attempt murder, helped arrange the delivery of methamphetamine, cocaine and marijuana from her residence in Southern California to MS-13 members in Mendota. A total of 13 alleged gang members have been indicted in the second case on allegations ranging from street terrorism to conspiracy. MS-13 had a presence in Mendota for at least a decade before federal and state law enforcement carried out the operation against the gang.

SOURCE: 29 January 2020, [Fresno Bee](#)

**(U) Modesto – Men Arrested in Connection With 2018 Halloween Shooting**

(U) Two people have been arrested in connection with the 2018 shooting of a Modesto partygoer who was left paralyzed. On Tuesday, arrested suspects 20-year-old Norvale Howard of Modesto and 19-year-old David Nelson-Castillo, also of Modesto, for attempted murder and other serious charges. They are both believed to be part of the same gang.

SOURCE: 29 January 2020, [CBS News](#)

**(U) Pixley – Traffic Stop Leads to Historic Drug Bust**

(U) A car driving without a license plate led to the largest drug bust in Tulare County Sheriff's Department's history. The driver, Eduardo Garcia, 20, and passenger, Saul Ontiveros, 24, got out of the car quickly and tried to go inside the home but were stopped. During a search of the home detectives found two working methamphetamine labs with about 113-pounds of crystal meth, 180-pounds of liquid meth, marijuana, about 300 fentanyl pills, ammunition, and two guns. Evidence led police to a second home in Porterville, where a search revealed more marijuana, ammunition, another 100-pounds of crystal meth, 70-gallons of liquid meth, and the same meth lab equipment being used at the house in Pixley. In total, police confiscated 175-pounds of crystal meth, 480-pounds of liquid meth, 5-pounds of marijuana, 1-gram of cocaine, and 300 fentanyl pills totaling \$1,580,660 in street value.

SOURCE: 29 January 2020, [The Sun Gazette](#)

**(U) Sacramento – Two Sacramento Churches Burned by Suspected Arsonist**

(U) Two Sacramento-area churches were damaged late Tuesday and early Wednesday morning in fires believed to be started by an arsonist. The first fire was reported at 11:56 p.m. at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church at 14th Avenue. Several windows were kicked in at the church and fire was set to an administrative office and library, a fire sprinkler system kept the blaze from spreading but caused major water damage in several offices. At 12:27 a.m., a second fire was reported at the Central International Fellowship Church on 16th Avenue. The fast-moving fire spread through the church's entry area and into the sanctuary, causing major damage. Firefighters said it took about 30 minutes to control the fire. As firefighters were battling the blaze, an arson investigator responding to the call spotted a suspicious person and ultimately made an arrest. They believe that suspect is responsible for both church fires.

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SOURCE: 29 January 2020, [Fresno Bee](#)

## **(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER**

### **(U) California – Longest Cross-Border Drug Tunnel in History Discovered**

(U) Otay Mesa – Authorities announced Wednesday the discovery of the longest, most sophisticated cross-border drug tunnel in history stretching nearly one-mile from the Tijuana airport into the United States. US Border Patrol agents described the tunnel as the most sophisticated they had seen with an extensive rail-and-cart system to rapidly transport drugs, forced air ventilation, high-voltage electrical cables and panels. The tunnel, named “Baja Metro” by border agents, also had an elevator at its entrance and a complex drainage system. The drug tunnel’s discovery was the culmination of a “challenging” multi-year, multi-agency investigation led by a coalition of US law enforcement officers, according to Border Patrol.

SOURCE: 29 January 2020, [San Diego Union Tribune](#)

## **(U) NATIONAL**

### **(U) District of Columbia – DOI Grounding Drone Fleet due to Cybersecurity Concerns**

(U) Washington – The US Secretary of the Interior issued an order Wednesday grounding all Department of Interior’s (DOI) non-emergency drones so the agency can assess potential cybersecurity concerns and ensures a secure, reliable, and consistent drone policy before operating the devices any further. The order, which is temporary, is intended to better ensure the cybersecurity and supply of American technology of unmanned aircraft systems, according to the order. Part of the DOI’s concern is that information on American energy, transportation, and defense infrastructure collected by DOI drones has the potential to be valuable to foreign entities, organizations, and governments.

SOURCE: 29 January 2020, [Cyber Scoop](#)

### **(U) Florida – Man Gets 20-Years for Selling Guns to Terrorist Group**

(U) Miami – Francisco Joseph Arcila Ramirez, a Colombian national living in South Florida, was sentenced Tuesday to 20-years in prison for selling firearms to a South American terrorist organization. A US District Judge sentenced Arcila in Miami federal court, according to court records. He pleaded guilty in October 2019 to providing material support to a foreign terrorist organization. Arcila instructed two co-conspirators to illegally purchase six AK-style pistols in Miami-Dade County in August 2018, according to investigators. The firearms were then concealed in air-compressors purchased by Arcila at a Miami-area hardware store and shipped to Barranquilla, Colombia. The shipment also contained about 100 AK-47 magazines.

SOURCE: 29 January 2020, [NBC News](#)

### **(U) Ohio – Community College Hit by Ransomware Attack**

(U) Kirtland – Lakeland Community College officials this week reported that the school has been hit by a ransomware attack. While the college acknowledged the data breach, it didn’t disclose details regarding specific information, departments or individuals affected. Meanwhile, the school on 28 January issued a statement that they were the victim of a ransomware attack, which encrypted some of their files. Upon learning of the issue, they immediately commenced an investigation, working with cybersecurity professionals who regularly analyze these types of incidents.

SOURCE: 29 January 2020, [News-Herald](#)

### **(U) Ohio – MS-13 Gang Member Arrested Again After 5 Removals from United States**

(U) Toledo – Known MS-13 member Juan Carlos Alvarez-Robles, 38, of Mexico was arrested 23 January

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when US Border Patrol agents from Detroit and Ohio executed a federal arrest warrant, according to authorities. Alvarez-Robles has been removed from the country five-times and was again in the US illegally. Officials say he is suspected of numerous nefarious activities in the Great Lakes region and has a history of drug possession, transporting/selling narcotics, grand theft auto, and multiple counts of theft and burglary. Alvarez-Robles told police he was a "Vato Loco" in his youth, which may refer to an abbreviated version of Varrio Locates 13 Watts, an affiliate or component of MS-13, a street gang found in California and elsewhere in the nation, and an international criminal organization in El Salvador.

SOURCE: 29 January 2020, [Detroit Free Press](#)

**(U) INTERNATIONAL****(U) Democratic Republic of Congo – Suspected Islamist Militants Kill at Least 30**

(U) Goma – Suspected Islamist militants killed at least 30 people overnight in attacks on villages in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo, officials said on Wednesday. Four villages were raided by the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a Ugandan Islamist group, in the west of Beni territory, which has seen a surge of violence since 30 October 2019, when the army launched a large-scale offensive against the rebels. Several previous ADF attacks have been claimed by ISIS, although researchers and analysts say there is a lack of hard evidence linking the two groups. The US imposed sanctions on the leader of the ADF and five others in December 2019 for perpetrating serious human rights abuses.

SOURCE: 29 January 2020, [Reuters](#)

**(U) Switzerland – World Health Organization to Decide if Coronavirus is a Global Emergency**

(U) Geneva – The World Health Organization's (WHO) Emergency Committee will meet on Thursday, to evaluate whether the new coronavirus spreading from China now constitutes an international emergency. The Committee will advise the Director-General on whether the outbreak constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), and what recommendations should be made to manage it, the WHO said in a statement. The Emergency Committee, composed of 16 independent experts, twice last week declined to declare a global emergency.

SOURCE: 29 January 2020, [Associated Press](#)

**(U) Switzerland – Report Shows United Nations had a Cybersecurity Compromise.**

(U) Geneva – Sophisticated hackers infiltrated UN networks in Geneva and Vienna in 2019, in an apparent espionage operation that officials at the world body kept confidential. The hackers' identity and the extent of the data they obtained are not known. An internal confidential document from the UN obtained by media, says dozens of servers were compromised including at the UN human rights office, which collects sensitive data and has been criticized by autocratic governments for exposing rights abuses. Given the high skill level, it is possible a state-backed actor was responsible, a UN official said.

SOURCE: 29 January 2020, [Associated Press](#)

**(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

**(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL [STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV), OR CALL 916-636-2900.**

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